

What is claimed is:

1. A swabbing tool for wells, the swabbing tool comprising:
a mandrel;
at least one swab cup on the mandrel, the mandrel and swab cup being arranged to allow fluids to pass from below to above the swab cup; and
a sifter attached to the swabbing tool below the swab cup for filtering particulates from fluid passing from below to above the swab cup.
2. The swabbing tool of claim 1 in which the sifter is barrel shaped.
3. The swabbing tool of claim 2 in which the sifter extends axially downhole from below the mandrel.
4. The swabbing tool of claim 3 in which the sifter comprises plural openings and the openings are oriented for lateral flow of fluid through the openings.
5. The swabbing tool of claim 3 in which the sifter is slotted to provide the sifter with a sifting function.
6. The swabbing tool of claim 2 further comprising a sealing element attached to the sifter to force fluid into the sifter.
7. The swabbing tool of claim 6 in which the sifter has an interior and the sealing element is dimensioned to seal against a casing or tubing wall and force fluid into the sifter.
8. The swabbing tool of claim 1 in which the sifter has plural openings for sifting particulates from fluid passing through the sifter, and the openings in the sifter are slots.

9. The swabbing tool of claim 8 in which the openings have a size between 0.125 mm and 0.635 mm.
10. The swabbing tool of claim 8 in which the sifter has plural openings for sifting particulates from fluid flowing through the sifter, the openings being oriented to permit lateral flow of fluid through the openings.